[Hon'ble Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

I shall now proceed to give a brief review of the financial position for the last, the current and the ensuing years.

Accounts—1122.

The total revenue for the year 1122 amounted to Rs. 880 lakhs as against Rs. 731 lakhs during 1121. The expenditure charged to revenue, excluding contribution to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Post War Reconstruction Fund, amounted to Rs. 808 lakhs so that the ordinary transactions for the year 1122 resulted in a revenue surplus of Rs. 72 lakhs of which a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was transferred to Revenue Reserve Fund and the balance to Post War Reconstruction Fund.

On the capital side the expenditure during the year was Rs. 193 lakhs.

Revised Estimate—1123.

I may now give a summary of the financial position for the current year based on the Budget Estimates and the Revised. The budgeted revenue and estimated expenditure for 1123, of Rs. 976 and Rs. 929 lakhs respectively, now stand revised at Rs. 934 and Rs. 907 lakhs, leaving a revenue surplus of Rs. 27 lakhs which is proposed to be credited to Revenue Reserve Fund. The variations between the budget and the revised estimates are explained in the Budget Memorandum.

Budget Estimate—1124.

I now turn to the budget estimates for 1124. I place the total revenue for the year at Rs. 855 lakhs and the expenditure charged to revenue at Rs 853 lakhs, leaving a surplus of about Rs. 2 lakhs. These figures are based more or less on the revised figures for 1123 with due reference to the relevant factors.

Revenue.

The total receipts from Customs have been placed at Rs. 119·5 lakhs, only Rs. 2 lakhs in excess of the revised, the normal volume of trade being expected to continue in 1124. Forest receipts are expected to improve and bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 23·66 lakhs due to the high demand for forest produce, especially timber. Under Education, an excess over the revised, of Rs. 5·39 lakhs is anticipated mainly on account of the increase in the number of school going population. Rs. 5 lakhs more is estimated to be realised under 'Mining Receipts'. A glance at the revenue estimates points to a marked fall under excise revenue, to the extent of Rs. 69 lakhs, due to the proposed introduction of prohibition which will, to some extent, be offset by the anticipated receipts under the Sales Tax proposed to be introduced. There is also a perceptible shrinkage under Taxes on Income, presumably the result of decrease in profits from business and fall in prices of certain important agricultural commodities.

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